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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/581,508	11/02/2006	Kazuhiro Kawasaki	SHIO-0189	8463
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EXAMINER SORIANO, BOBBY GILES				
ART UNIT 4158		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/581,508

Applicant(s)

KAWASAKI, KAZUHIRO

Examiner

BOBBY SORIANO

Art Unit

4158

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 June 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-85/86)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/18/2006
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because reference characters are inconsistent. The interchanging use of numbers and alphabetic symbols does not promote a clear and consistent method of referencing parts of the invention. Applicant is kindly requested to keep numbering scheme consistent in all drawings (i.e. using all numbers for each reference). Furthermore, the drawings are objected to because figure labels are not located on the same sheet of paper as described in the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet"

pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of undue length. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ewing (US Patent Application 2004/0054760 A1). The reference discloses the following claim limitations:

1. A support method of a medical institution, characterized by providing the latest medical technology for a terminal medical institution, wherein a diagnosis and an examination are provided for a patient of the terminal medical institution by:

arranging a terminal equipment having a diagnostic examination instrument essential to the terminal medical institution (Ref 32 Fig 1 Par [0020]);

performing the diagnosis and examination of the patient by the terminal equipment at the terminal medical institution (Par [0006]);

transmitting diagnosis and examination data of the terminal equipment to a complete medical institution via a communication network (Par [0024]);

analyzing and processing the data at the complete medical institution (Par [0030]);

and transmitting the processed result to the terminal medical institution via the communication network (Fig 2 Par [0042]).

2. The support method of the medical institution according to claim 1, wherein data analysis/processing is performed by transferring diagnosis and examination data to other support institution equivalent to the complete medical institution while a data analysis/processing function of the complete medical institution is degraded (Par [0025] where the communication manager can change destination of data based on availability

of communication devices and link failures).

3. A support network of a medical institution providing the latest medical technology for a terminal medical institution, comprising:

a terminal equipment having a diagnostic examination instrument essentially arranged in the terminal medical institutions (Ref 32 Fig 1 Par [0020]);

a communication network for transmitting diagnosis and examination data of the terminal equipment (Ref 30 Fig 1 Par [0032]); and

a complete medical institution for analyzing and processing the diagnosis and examination data transmitted and for transmitting the processed result to the terminal medical institution via the communication network (Ref 24 Fig 1 Par [0030] and [0063]).

4. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the communication network is connected with a support institution having a function equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institutions (Ref 26 Fig 1 Par [0031]).

5. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the complete medical institution is provided with a mobile terminal having a function equivalent to that of the terminal medical institutions (Ref 34 Fig 1 Par [0023]).

6. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the

terminal medical institution comprises terminal medical institutions distributed in a plurality of places (Par [0019] and claim 1 indicating a plurality of terminal medical institutions).

7. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the terminal medical institution comprises:

a diagnostic examination instrument for detecting the condition of the patient (Ref 42 Fig 1 Par [0022]);

data processing means connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data (Ref 44 Fig 1 Par [0022]);

and a communication controller or connecting to the communication network for transmission (Ref 36 Fig 1 Par [0024]).

8. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the terminal medical institution comprises a monitor for an image/video transmitted from the complete medical institution (Ref 362 Fig 4 Par [0082]).

9. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the complete medical institution comprises a communication controller for receiving the transmitted data from the communication network, having an function to specify the institution to be supported (Ref 76 Fig 1 Par [0030] [0024]).

10. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the complete medical institution comprises an access controller to be actuated upon reception of the transmitted data for initiating the data processing (Ref 70 as described by Fig 3 and Par [0054] to [0060]).

11. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the communication network is connected with a support institution having a function equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institution and wherein the complete medical institution is provided with a mobile terminal having a function equivalent to that of the terminal medical institution (Ref 26, 34 Fig 1 Par [0031] [0023]).

12. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the communication network is connected with a support institution having a function equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institution and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises terminal medical institutions distributed in a plurality of places (Ref 26 Fig 1 Par [0031] and Par [0019] claim 1 indicating a plurality of terminal medical institutions).

13. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the communication network is connected with a support institution having a function

equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institution (Ref 26 Fig 1 Par [0031]) and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises:

a diagnostic examination instrument for detecting the condition of the patient (Ref 42 Fig 1 Par [0022]);

data processing means connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data (Ref 44 Fig 1 Par [0022]);

and a communication controller or connecting to the communication network for transmission (Ref 36 Fig 1 Par [0024]).

14. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the complete medical institution is provided with a mobile terminal having a function equivalent to that of the terminal medical institution (Ref 34 Fig 1 Par [0023]) and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises:

a diagnostic examination instrument for detecting the condition of the patient (Ref 42 Fig 1 Par [0022]);

data processing means connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data (Ref 44 Fig 1 Par [0022]);

and a communication controller or connecting to the communication network for transmission (Ref 36 Fig 1 Par [0024]).

15. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the complete medical institution is provided with a mobile terminal having a function

equivalent to that of the terminal medical institution (Ref 34 Fig 1 Par [0023]) and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises a monitor for an image/video transmitted from the complete medical institution (Ref 362 Fig 4 Par [0082]).

16. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the complete medical institution comprises a communication controller for receiving the transmitted data from the communication network, having an function to specify the institution to be supported (Ref 76 Fig 1 Par [0030] [0024]), and wherein the terminal medical institution comprises:

- a diagnostic examination instrument for detecting the condition of the patient (Ref 42 Fig 1 Par [0022]);

- data processing means connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data (Ref 44 Fig 1 Par [0022]);

- and a communication controller or connecting to the communication network for transmission (Ref 36 Fig 1 Par [0024]).

17. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the terminal medical institution comprises a monitor for an image/video transmitted from the complete medical institution (Ref 362 Fig 4 Par [0082]) and wherein the complete medical institution comprises a communication controller for receiving the transmitted data from the communication network, having an function to specify the institution to be supported (Ref 76 Fig 1 Par [0030] [0024]).

18. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the communication network is connected with a support institution having a function equivalent to the data processing/analyzing function of the complete medical institution (Ref 26 Fig 1 Par [0031]) and wherein the complete medical institution comprises an access controller to be actuated upon reception of the transmitted data for initiating the data processing (Ref 70 as described by Fig 3 and Par [0054] to [0060]).

19. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the terminal medical institution comprises:

a diagnostic examination instrument for detecting the condition of the patient (Ref 42 Fig 1 Par [0022]);

data processing means connected to the diagnostic examination instrument for processing the data (Ref 44 Fig 1 Par [0022]); and

a communication controller or connecting to the communication network for transmission (Ref 36 Fig 1 Par [0024]), and

wherein the complete medical institution comprises an access controller to be actuated upon reception of the transmitted data for initiating the data processing (Ref 70 as described by Fig 3 and Par [0054] to [0060]).

20. The support network of the medical institution according to claim 3, wherein the terminal medical institution comprises a monitor for an image/video transmitted from the

complete medical institution (Ref 362 Fig 4 Par [0082]) and wherein the complete medical institution comprises an access controller to be actuated upon reception of the transmitted data for initiating the data processing (Ref 70 as described by Fig 3 and Par [0054] to [0060]).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BOBBY SORIANO whose telephone number is (571)270-7030. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm Alternate Fridays Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Jackson can be reached on 571-272-4697. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/B. S./
Examiner, Art Unit 4158
11/3/08

/Gary Jackson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 4158